

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03795 171357Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 LAB-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07  
INR-07 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-01 PA-01  
PRS-01 OIC-02 /069 W  
-----172311Z 113747 /12  
R 171252Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4514  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3795

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PLAB, ILO  
SUBJECT: 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILO - ETHIOPIA)

REF: A) GENEVA 4796, B) ADDIS ABABA 3702

1. WE HAVE READ REFTEL (A) WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST BUT MUST CONFESS THAT, AS WE ARE NOT LABOR EXPERTS, THERE ARE STILL SOME ASPECTS THAT PUZZLE US. WE ARE STILL NOT CLEAR WHAT IMPLICATIONS OF THE "SPECIAL LIST" ARE FOR OFFENDING COUNTRY. WE ALSO NOT CLEAR WHY ETHIOPIA SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT. ARE THERE OTHER COUNTRIES ALREADY ON "LIST"? SURELY ETHIOPIA IS NOT ALONE IN CREATING GOVERNMENT-LEGISLATED TRADE UNIONS.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE, HOWEVER, IS NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN TECHNICAL LABOR MATTERS, WHICH NOT OUR CONCERN. OUR PRINCIPAL INTEREST IS FACT THAT WE WERE ONLY GOVERNMENT TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF "SPECIAL LIST." WE MAY HAVE DONE SO ON OTHER THAN POLITICAL GROUNDS, BUT VOTE WILL BE CONSIDERED HIGHLY POLITICAL HERE AS SUGGESTED OUR 3702, COMING AS IT DID IN WAKE OF SERIES OF EVENTS THAT HAVE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE STRAIN IN US-ETHIOPIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. INDEED IT LIKELY BE VIEWED AS RETALIATORY  
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MEASURE BY USG, HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH LABOR MATTERS, SINCE WE WERE NOT SUPPORTED BY ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS ONE MORE INDICATION THAT WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND OR APPROVE OF THEIR REVOLUTION.

3. IN THE CURRENT DELICATE ATMOSPHERE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, WE FIND THIS A POTENTIALLY UNFORTUNATE DEVELOP-

MENT AND WONDER, THEREFORE, SINCE COMMITTEE OF APPLICATIONS  
OF CONVENTIONS AND REGULATIONS (CACR) IS APPARENTLY NOT  
THROUGH WITH ITS WORK, WHETHER THERE IS ANY WAY STILL  
OPEN TO US THAT WOULD PERMIT US TO REGISTER WHAT APPEARS  
TO BE OUR TECHNICAL DISSATISFACTION, YET SOMEHOW NOT BE  
IDENTIFIED AS THE ONLY GOVERNMENT READY TO CRITICIZE  
ETHIOPIA IN THIS MATTER.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, MEETING VOTING RECORDS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977ADDIS03795  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 GENEVA 4796, 77 ADDIS ABABA 3702  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009